

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4186

E.O. 11652: 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, LU, NATO

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG FORCES FOR NATO

REF: USNATO 3619

SUMMARY. REPLY TO DPQ(73) INDICATES LUXEMBOURG FORCE CONTRI-
BUTION TO NATO MEETS COMMITMENT UNDERTAKEN FOR 1973. 1974
COMMITMENT CONTINUES TO BE ONE INFANTRY BATTALION EARMARKED
TO NATO; PROJECTED FORCE STRUCTURE DOES NOT ALTER OVER 1974-78
PERIOD. HIGHLIGHT OF WEAPON MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS ACQUI-
TION OF 6 TOW ANTITANK MISSILE LAUNCHER SYSTEMS. LUXEMBOURG
ALSO PLANS TO PROCURE A MODERN LOW-LEVEL ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE
SYSTEM, BUT MODEL NOT YET SELECTED. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES
ARE ESTIMATED TO INCREASE IN REAL TERMS BY 3.6 PERCENT IN 1973
AND 7.8 PERCENT IN 1974. SHARE OF GNP FOR DEFENSE REMAINS AT
APPROXIMATELY ONE PERCENT IN 1973. USNATO PLANS NO MAJOR
INTERVENTION AT MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF LUXEMBOURG 1974-78
FORCE PLANS. END SUMMARY.

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1. FORCE PLANS. 1973 COMMITMENT IS BEING MET. 1974 COMMITMENT
IS ONE A2 LIGHT INFANTRY BATTALION EARMARKED FOR EMPLOYMENT
IN AMF. ONE LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANY IS MAINTAINED UNDER
NATIONAL COMMAND AND REPORTED AS "OTHER FORCES FOR NATO."

FORCE STRUCTURE DOES NOT ALTER OVER 1974-78 PERIOD; NATO FORCE GOAL TO AUGMENT INFANTRY BATTALION WITH A THIRD RIFLE COMPANY IS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED. AT LAST YEAR'S MULTILATERAL SESSION, LUXEMBOURG CITED MANPOWER CEILING IMPOSED BY LAW AND LACK OF VOLUNTEERS AS REASONS WHY GOAL NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED. TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH IS APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND IN 1973; MANPOWER LEVEL IS PROJECTED TO REMAIN CONSTANT OVER REST OF PLANNING PERIOD. ALL PERSONNEL ARE REGULARS. BECAUSE OF RETIREMENT OF LARGE NUMBER OF CAREER PERSONNEL IN NEXT FEW YEARS, LUXEMBOURG ANTICIPATES DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF OFFICERS AND NCOS IN 1975-80 PERIOD.

2. EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. HIGHLIGHT OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS ACQUISITION OF 6 TOW ANTITANK MISSILE SYSTEMS REPLACING 106 MM RR; DELIVERY IS SCHEDULED OVER 1973-75 PERIOD. LUXEMBOURG ALSO INTENDS TO ACQUIRE AN ADVANCED LOW-LEVEL ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE SYSTEM BEGINNING IN 1975; FINAL DECISION ON TYPE HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. DODGE 3/4 TON TRUCK IS TO BE REPLACED BY A MODERN ONE TON VEHICLE (1976-78). COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IS ALSO BEING MODERNIZED. NBC PROTECTION EQUIPMENT IS TO BE PROCURED. OPERATIONAL STOCKS FOR EXISTING WEAPONS ARE HELD AT MORE THAN 90 STANDARD DAYS. FOR PLANNED ADVANCED ANTITANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES THERE IS NO NATO OR NATIONAL STANDARD NUMBER OF DAYS. MEMORANDUM ADDS THAT THESE ARE EXPENSIVE SYSTEMS WITH SHORT SHELF LIFE, ACQUISITION PROGRAM WILL BE LIMITED TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.

3. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTION ONLY PROVIDES DEFENSE EXPENDITURE INFORMATION UP THROUGH 19774. FISCAL YEAR IS SAME AS CALENDAR YEAR. LUXEMBOURG ESTIMATES FOLLOWING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS AT 40:33 FRANCS TO THE DOLLAR:

US NATO ESTIMATE

	IN CURRENT PRICES	IN CONSTANT 1970 PRICES
1970	12.8	11.1
1973	14.3	11.5

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1974	16.5	12.4
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IN MONETARY TERMS THESE FIGURES REPRESENT MORE THAN AN 11 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1973 OVER 1972 AND CLOSE TO A 16 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1974 OVER 1973. IN REAL TERMS USNATO ESTIMATES A 3.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1973 AND A 7.8 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1974. IN 1973, EXPENDITURES FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT MORE THAN DOUBLE 1972 LEVEL; MAJOR EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES DROP IN 1974 BUT STILL REMAIN WELL ABOVE 1972 LEVEL. HOWEVER, FUNDING ALLOCATED TO MAJOR EQUIPMENT IS LESS THAN FUNDS FOR NATO COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATIONAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION. NATO ESTIMATES PERCENT OF GNP FOR DEFENSE WILL REMAIN AT APPROXIMATELY ONE PERCENT IN 1973, DESPITE REAL TERM AND

VOLUME INCREASES IN DEFENSE SPENDING.

4. PROPOSED US NATO POSITION FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION. WE PROPOSE NO MAJOR INTERVENTION. WE PLAN TO ENCOURAGE LUXEMBOURG TO MAINTAIN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AT PROJECTED LEVELS OF SPENDING, PARTICULARLY IF EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS SUCH AS PLANNED ANTITANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT IMPROVEMENTS ARE TO BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

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